



Volunteer News

2006 Candlelight Tour: “The best ever...”

And was it!! It was the first time ever that the Candlelight Tour highlighted a historic event over two successive nights. Volunteers and staff were part of history as the events surrounding the U.S. Schooner Shark shipwreck unfolded before visitors eyes.

The living history was first rate and was reflected by the number of comments shared at the end to the Answer Ranger. A visitor commented; “I visited Williamsburg this summer and this was every bit as good as there!” Not only were we trying to improve the living history piece, but we were striving to improve the logistics of the event. This popular event attracts thousands and this year visitors noted the “best traffic flow ever”. The comment that sums it all was a volunteer at another park stating, “...this event wants me to volunteer here.” What a tool to recruit more people to help tell the many stories here at Fort Vancouver and the Vancouver National Historic Reserve!

This event could not have been done without the hard work of close to 200 volunteers. The volunteer’s role could be seen throughout this event. They assisted in the set up which takes place 2-3 days prior to the actual event. Volunteers work all year round in preparation for the large number of period clothes needed and the garden produce. Every staff and volunteer was outfitted in their appropriate attire. The fruits of the volunteer’s labor were



Candlelight Tour participants do a walk through getting a sense of what visitors should expect. This gave an opportunity for everyone to meet each other prior to the start of the event.

noticed as the produce from the garden was used in the cooking demonstrations for the Company Village and Oregon Trail Camps as well as in the Kitchen.

You found volunteers serving as greeters as visitors first entered into the Orchard timeline of history, providing the introduction that sets the scene before visitors visit the buildings, and assisting visitors in moving from building to building. Volunteers were the costumed interpreters in the Orchard area or doing living history inside the fort.

Another highlighted success theatre students in one of the buildings. This

last minute addition proved to be overwhelming success. The pool of talent within our community school’s drama and theatre clubs will be a resource for the future.

The planning, preparation, and the event involved volunteers. The volunteer presence was found throughout this event.

The Fort Vancouver Staff wish to say thank you for all you have done to assist in making Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, the Vancouver National Historic Reserve, and the City of Vancouver’s signature event a success.

News You Can Use

Much has happened this year at Fort Vancouver. As we approach the end of 2006, we can reflect on the exciting activities that occurred at the Fort, McLoughlin House, and the Vancouver National Historic Reserve.

The National Park Service expanded its role at the McLoughlin House, a unit of Fort Vancouver. The Maintenance and Curatorial Divisions have provided a lot of work to spruce up the house. This year Interpretation hired Park Guide, John Salisbury, to provide the interpretive component. John serves as the National Park Service representative, providing programs, working with volunteers, and serving as the operations contact person.

New summer programs were introduced this year providing visitors an array of choices. The launching of the Audio Tour, available both for children and adults, gave visitors a comprehensive orientation to the site. The Audio tours allowed staff to delve into new programs, including Lantern Tours, Hands-On Fridays, and Fort Vancouver Beyond the Fur Trade as well as be available to provide more cultural demonstrations.

If you haven't recently taken an amble along the waterfront, then please do. Extensive efforts have been made in partnership with the City of Vancouver and the Fort Vancouver Maintenance Crew to clear out the nuisance vegetation. The result is an area that is a sight for sore eyes as visitors are now able to see the river without having to peer through blackberry brambles. The area is more inviting for walkers and bikers to enjoy the waterfront.

The Landbridge Project is making strides. Daily the work is becoming more and more visible. The park is very much involved in the overseeing many aspects of this project including the archaeology monitoring and interpretation text.

Congratulations are in order for **Heidi Pierson** who is the new museum in the Cultural Resources Division.

Fort Vancouver's Volunteer- In-Parks Program Highlights

Fort Vancouver Field Schools Programs are expanding by leaps and bounds. The Archaeology Field School had yet another successful season with 17 students assisting in the digs. The students who were learning the science and skills of this field were also able to work with future diggers in the popular "Kids Dig" program. The first ever Public History Field School took place this past spring. Students learned the skills of research and interpretation. These same students assisted in the Brigade Encampment, providing a new piece to the event. Students were required to research a topic and present a program for the Brigade Encampment, providing visitors a series of in-depth talks about the various aspects of Hudson's Bay Company Brigades.

Much has been done in the **Period Clothing Program**. If you have a chance to visit, you will note the transformation is quite stunning. The Period Clothing Crew has done an outstanding job in making the Program

more user friendly as well as updating and upgrading the collection. to the Fort. There is still a substantial amount of clothing that has yet to be catalogued under the updated system. The Period Clothing Room is open on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10a.m.-2p.m. If you have any questions or need to make special arrangements, please give Heidi Pierson a call at 360.816.6255.

Another notable transformation that took place this summer was the revitalization effort of the **garden**. Garden volunteers worked steadfastly to provide a garden that stood out this year. The produce could match any Farmer's Market. A new addition was added, the herb garden. With the herb garden came gravel paths, so visitors were able to walk amongst the herbs. A project created by a team of herb enthusiasts, this new addition along with the other find looking aspects of the garden really gave visitors a wonderful first impression to Fort Vancouver.

*****Great News*****

Volunteer participation increased with close to 500 volunteers providing over 26,000 volunteer hours. All volunteers are a highlight at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site.

It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas

Planning efforts are underway for the McLoughlin House Candlelight Tour and Christmas at Fort Vancouver.

The park is partnering with the Ermatinger House to provide visitors a broader history of the holidays in Oregon City. The house, built by Dr. John McLoughlin, was for Francis Ermatinger and his wife Kate Sinclair, Dr. McLoughlin's granddaughter. The connection is a perfect match for this event.

With support of the McLoughlin Memorial Association, planning is being done to provide visitors a glimpse of holiday handicrafts through cultural demonstrations while hearing about the hospitality the McLoughlins provided to the community during the holidays. As part of the program, visitors will also be able to view a living history scenerio at the Ermatinger House. This partnership is the beginning of many more to come for Fort Vancouver's Oregon City unit.

Upcoming Holiday Events:

McLoughlin House Candlelight Tour

December 3, 2006 (Sunday)

4:30p.m.-7:30p.m.

Christmas At Fort Vancouver

December 9, 2006 (Saturday)

10:00a.m.-4:00p.m.

Christmas at Fort Vancouver will focus on what the employees of the Hudson's Bay Company may have been doing in preparation for the festive day.

The ways in which the event will be interpreted will have a different emphasis from years past, with more hands-on activities. Staff and volunteers will be dressed of the period sharing the history through activities that would have happened during the holiday season at Fort Vancouver. The gentlemen's and ladies dinner will be replaced by a holiday cooking activity

for public participation. Other things that are being planned will be music of the time, storytelling, and the traditional duck hunt black powder program. A historical resource guide is in the works for staff and volunteers to refer to and should be available around Thanksgiving.

If you are volunteering for either event, please remember to check in when you arrive. It is highly recommended to get outfitted prior to the events. Please make arrangements with Eileen Trestain, the Period Clothing Coordinator. More logistical information will be forthcoming.

We are looking for more enthusiastic volunteers. Positions are available in costumed interpretation, presenting cultural demonstrations, helping with activities, or stationing a building talking with visitors about the holidays at Fort Vancouver. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Kimm at 360.816.6243 or Kimm.Fox-Middleton@nps.gov.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site is a premier historical and archaeological site that shares and preserves the history associated with the Hudson's Bay Company's Fort Vancouver and the U.S. Army's Vancouver Barracks. A part of the Vancouver National Historic Reserve, we value working with partners and the public to bring this special history to life.

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Coming Soon in 2007

Wild Winter Season- The parks hours have changed to 9-4pm. However, there is a lot more going on during the winter than years past. Due to the success of the pilot program, Lantern Tours will be expanded this year. This program will be offered in January and February. Look for the Special Events and Programs schedule for details. It will be coming out soon!

Happy New Year- The New Year will start with a bang as we start to offer Volunteer Gatherings. These gatherings will allow volunteers to network with volunteers from all program areas, meet the staff, hear speakers, and much more.

March Madness- "Spring training" for volunteers in all program areas of the park will take place this month. Stay tune for details about what will be offered and when.



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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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Volunteer Recognition by way of a Volunteer Pass

“Congress officially authorized Secretaries of the Department of Agriculture and the Interior to issue an annual park pass in exchange for performance of significant volunteer services”

What is the cost? The Volunteer pass is free of charge for Volunteers who have accrued 500 hours.

What are the benefits? It covers the entrance fees to National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Sites. The pass also covers the standard amenity fees at Bureau Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, and Forest Service sites.

Who is included in these benefits? The volunteer pass admits the pass holder and anyone in their vehicle and the pass holder and up to 3 people in a per person fee areas. Individuals 15 years and younger are free.

Does the Volunteer Pass expire? The pass is good for one year from the month it was issued.

When does this program begin? The program begins January 1, 2007. There is no time frame to accrue the 500 hours.

What does this mean for you? Let the fun begin! Make sure you have an updated Volunteer Service Agreement for this fiscal year, which began October 1 and that you keep track of your volunteer hours. If you have any questions regarding your agreement and timesheets, please contact your Volunteer Supervisor or Park Contact. If you have any other questions regarding the Volunteer Pass, please contact Kimm Fox-Middleton, the Volunteer-In-Parks Program Manager.